Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a heat source at a temperature above 100°C and below 200°C;

a member to be protected and affected by heat of the heat source; and

a vacuum heat insulator comprising:

a heat seal layer;

a core material;

an enveloping member covering the core material and including:

a gas barrier layer provided outside of the heat seal layer; and

a protective layer provided outside of the gas barrier layer; and

a fin to which the enveloping member is welded;

wherein a melting point of the heat seal layer is above 100°C and below 200°C, a melting point of the protective layer is at least 200°C, at least the fin is disposed on a low-temperature side of a heat-insulating surface of the vacuum heat insulator, and the vacuum heat insulator blocks thermal effect of the heat source on the member to be protected.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a heat source at a temperature above 100°C and below 200°C;

a portion to be kept warm and heated to a temperature above 100°C and below 200°C; and

a vacuum heat insulator comprising:

a core material;

an enveloping member covering the core material and including:

a heat seal layer;

a gas barrier layer provided outside of the heat seal layer; and

a protective layer provided outside of the gas barrier layer; and

a fin to which the enveloping member is welded;

wherein a melting point of the heat seal layer is above 100°C and below 200°C, a melting point of the protective layer is at least 200°C, at least the fin is disposed on a low-temperature side of a heat-insulating surface of the vacuum heat insulator, and the vacuum heat insulator maintains a temperature of the portion to be kept warm.

18. - 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein

the apparatus is a printing machine for fixing a toner onto a recording paper;

the heat source is a fixing unit for fixing the toner onto the recording paper;

the member to be protected includes:

a toner storage for storing the toner to be melted and fixed onto the recording paper by the fixing unit;

a transfer unit for transferring the toner onto the recording paper; and

a control unit for controlling printing operation; and

the vacuum heat insulator is provided on an outer periphery of at least one of the fixing unit, the toner storage, and the control unit.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein

the apparatus is a fixing unit for melting and fixing a toner onto a recording paper, provided in a printing machine;

the portion to be kept warm includes:

a heat-fixing roller provided in the fixing unit; and

a press-contacting roller provided in the fixing unit and bringing the recording paper into press contact with the heat-fixing roller; and

the vacuum heat insulator is disposed to surround at least one of the heat-fixing roller and the press-contacting roller.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein

the apparatus is a notebook type computer;

the heat source is a CPU;

the member to be protected is at least one of:

a housing forming an outer shell of the notebook type computer;

a keyboard exposed from the notebook type computer; and

a build-in accessory provided in the notebook type computer;

the vacuum heat insulator is disposed in at least one of a space between the CPU and a bottom surface of the housing, a space between the CPU and the keyboard, and a space between the CPU and the built-in accessory.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein

the apparatus is a water heater including a hot-water storage therein;

the portion to be kept warm is a heater in proximity to the hot-water storage; and

the vacuum heat insulator is disposed in at least a portion in proximity to the heater.